

US009636573B1

## (12) United States Patent

Schultz et al.

# (10) Patent No.: US 9,636,573 B1

(45) **Date of Patent:** May 2, 2017

## (54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING VIRTUAL ITEMS TO USERS OF A VIRTUAL WORLD

(71) Applicant: **KABAM, INC.**, San Francisco, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Stephanie K. Schultz**, San Francisco, CA (US); **Michael C. Caldarone**, Palo

Alto, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: Kabam, Inc., San Francisco, CA (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 389 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 14/165,558

(22) Filed: Jan. 27, 2014

(51) Int. Cl.

A63F 9/24 (2006.01)

A63F 13/00 (2014.01)

G06F 17/00 (2006.01)

G06F 19/00 (2011.01)

A63F 13/30 (2014.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 

CPC ...... A63F 13/12 (2013.01)

#### (58) Field of Classification Search

CPC ...... A63F 13/49; A63F 13/493; A63F 13/497; A63F 2300/5533; A63F 2300/554; A63F 2300/636; G07F 17/3255

See application file for complete search history.

#### (56) References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

9,356,829 B1*	5/2016	Zeldin H04L 41/0654
2009/0029676 A1	1/2009	Thalapaneni et al 455/411
2009/0234948 A1	9/2009	Garbow et al 709/225
2010/0255901 A1*	10/2010	Garvey G07F 17/32
		463/25

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	2437224	4/2012
WO	00/25876	5/2000

<sup>\*</sup> cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Milap Shah Assistant Examiner — Jason Pinheiro (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

## (57) ABSTRACT

A shop interface is presented to users in conjunction with presentation of views of an online game, wherein the shop interface is configured to facilitate presentations to users of offers to sell virtual items usable within the game in exchange for consideration. In response to detecting that the online game is systematically unavailable to users, an alternative virtual shop interface is presented to users that is accessed over the Internet separately from the online game, and offers to sell the virtual times usable within the game are presented to users in exchange for less consideration than the offers to sell the virtual items through the shop interface presented in conjunction with the online game.

## 18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

